

NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE

June 8, 2001

IN RE:

**APPROVAL OF THE INTERCONNECTION
AGREEMENT AND AMENDMENTS THERETO
BETWEEN BELL SOUTH TELECOMMUNICATIONS,
INC. AND US LEC OF TENNESSEE, INC. PURSUANT
TO SECTIONS 251 AND 252 OF THE
TELECOMMUNICATIONS ACT OF 1996**

DOCKET NO. 01-00282

ORDER APPROVING INTERCONNECTION AGREEMENT AND AMENDMENTS

This matter came before the Tennessee Regulatory Authority (the “Authority”) upon the Petition for approval of the Interconnection Agreement (the “Agreement”) and Amendments thereto (the “Amendments”) negotiated by and between BellSouth Telecommunications, Inc. (“BellSouth”) and US LEC of Tennessee, Inc. (“US LEC”). The Petition for approval of the Agreement and Amendments came before the Authority pursuant to 47 U.S.C. §§ 251-252.

The Agreement and Amendments were considered at a regularly scheduled Authority Conference held on May 15, 2001, in Nashville, Tennessee before Chairman Sara Kyle, Director H. Lynn Greer, Jr., and Director Melvin J. Malone. The Authority has jurisdiction over public utilities pursuant to Tenn. Code Ann. § 65-4-104 *et seq.* Based upon the Petition, the record in this matter, and the standards for review set forth in 47 U.S.C. §§ 251-252, the Directors unanimously approved the Agreement and Amendments and made the following findings and conclusions:

1) The Agreement and Amendments are in the public interest as they provide consumers with alternative sources of telecommunications services within the BellSouth service area;

2) The Agreement and Amendments are not discriminatory to telecommunications service providers that are not parties thereto;

3) No party has sought intervention in this docket;

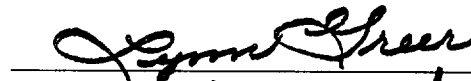
4) Approval of the Agreement and Amendments is consistent with previous Authority decisions and orders; and

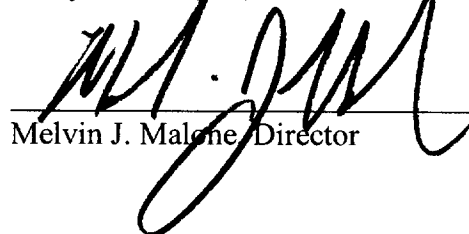
5) The Agreement and Amendments are reviewable by the Authority pursuant to 47 U.S.C. §§ 251-252 and Tenn. Code Ann. § 65-4-104 *et seq.*

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED THAT:

The Interconnection Agreement and Amendments thereto negotiated by and between BellSouth Telecommunications, Inc. and US LEC of Tennessee, Inc. are approved and are subject to the review of the Authority as provided herein.


Sara Kyle, Chairman


H. Lynn Greer, Jr., Director


Melvin J. Malone, Director

ATTEST:


K. David Waddell, Executive Secretary